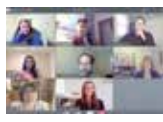




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Amherst artist reflects on *carousel exhibit*

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

AMHERST – The tunes of whimsical music, colorful horses leaping up and gliding down, laughter and fun are wrapped up in memories of riding a carousel.

In her art installation, “Vimoksha,” a term meaning free from ignorance, artist Kathryn Fanelli said she wanted to show people that nothing is exactly like it seems.

The installation, a 100-year-old kiddie carousel re-imagined by Fanelli, was her part of her master’s in fine arts thesis, titled “The Passing Show.”

Project saw its last day on Friday March 19. The show was extended over two times, and “took on a life of its own,” Fanelli.

See **CAROUSEL**, page 16 •



Amherst resident and artist Kathryn Fanelli had her art exhibit “Vimoksha” on display in the UMass Arts Center for six months.

PHOTO BY
MELINA BOURDEAU

GRANBY

Granby sets date for ATM

Firefighters can’t carry over OT

DALTON ZBIERSKI
Staff Writer

GRANBY – The Granby Selectboard began its March 22 meeting by locking in a date for the annual Town Meeting.

Annual Town Meeting

This year’s Town Meeting will occur at 8 a.m. on June 5, on the front lawn of Granby Jr. Sr. High School at 385 E. State St.

“We’re going to do it the same way we did it last year. We’re going to have a tent with the microphone system,” said Town Administrator Christopher Martin on March 22. “I’m going to play it safe and hold this town meeting again outside. Hopefully, after this, we’ll be able to start going back inside.”

On June 25, 2020, the outdoor meeting was met with good weather. Selectboard Chair Glenn Sexton acknowledged that may not be the case again this summer.

“Last time, we were fortunate to have good weather. I think we should go into it with the understanding that the weather may not be as cooperative as it was last time. Whatever we can do to expedite the meeting would be helpful,” said Sexton, adding that last year’s meeting went relatively quickly.

Martin did not pursue an indoor venue after the Board of Health recently decided that the town will not go forward with Charter Days on June 12 and 13.

“We’re not sure if the Board of Health will allow us to have an indoor meeting because of their decision with Charter Days; not to have it because they were afraid the vaccination program may not have taken care of enough people even by June 12 and 13,” said Martin.

Sexton may not be in town on June 5, as his plans for that day are still up in the air.

“It’s a maybe. If I knew I was going to be away, I’d tell you right now. I have a family obligation I might be going on that day,” said Sexton.

See **GRANBY ATM**, page 7 •

COVID-19

School Committee approves pooled testing

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – There will be pooled testing of students and staff in the Belchertown Public

Schools following an approval by the School Committee last week.

While the committee didn’t take a vote, members expressed approval of pooled testing in the district. School Committee mem-

ber Josh Wallace was not present at the meeting.

According to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, pooled testing involves “mixing several test

samples together in a ‘batch’ or ‘pool’ and then testing the pooled sample with a PCR test for detection of (COVID-19.)

See **TESTING**, page 8 •

PLANNING

Economic development plan available to public

MELINA BOURDEAU
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – Residents will now be able to view the draft economic development plan as part of the ongoing updates to the town’s Community Plan.

The community plan is about 10 years old, according to Town Planner Doug Albertson. To revise this plan, the town opted to do it piece by piece using grants to fund the updates.

Albertson said the town “wants to continue to support local businesses - that’s what keeps the money moving right

here in town.”

The draft states the purpose of a master plan is to “guide a town’s policies and strategies over the next 10 to 20 years... intended to be used to provide Town Boards and Commissions with a set of common goals and strategies which can be uniformly taken into consideration when making decisions.”

There will also be a public hearing at a Planning Board meeting and then the Planning Board will adopt it as a section of the community plan. The

See **ECONOMIC PLAN**, page 10 •



COUNCIL ON AGING GETS A HELPING HAND

“It’s literally a ton of food,” Volunteer Coordinator Katy Martin said of the Amherst Survival Center mobile food bank distribution, noting that about 40 households were scheduled for drive through pick-ups that day, each receiving 70-100 pounds.



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COMMUNITY

Belchertown man arraigned on firearm and other charges

BELCHERTOWN – Ixadrian Aponte, 18, of 25 Depot St. in Belchertown was arrested on March 24, at his home on a warrant following an extensive investigation by the Belchertown Police Department, with assistance from the Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office.

Aponte is alleged to have ordered marijuana using SnapChat, a social media application, and arranged for an exchange on Shea Avenue. When a vehicle approached him, Aponte allegedly tried to rob the two occupants at gunpoint and then shot into the vehicle through the driver’s side window. A bullet hit the front seat passenger who sustained significant injuries.

Aponte is charged with the following:

- armed assault with intent to murder (firearm)

- armed assault with intent to rob (firearm)
- assault and battery with a firearm
- carrying a loaded firearm without a license
- discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling
- use of a firearm in the commission of a felony

All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Aponte was arraigned in Eastern Hampshire District Court via video-conference on March 24, 2021 on firearm and assault charges, including armed assault to murder, in connection with a shooting on Shea Avenue, in Belchertown, on November 12, 2020. Judge Bruce Melikian ordered Aponte held without bail pending a dangerousness hearing on April 2, 2021.

Library giving day April 7

BELCHERTOWN – Library Giving Day arrives on April 7, and in conjunction with that date, the Trustees of the Clapp Memorial Library will once again launch their Annual Appeal aimed at raising funds to supplement the municipally appropriated budget.

Library Giving Day is dedicated to growing philanthropic support for libraries nationwide as part of Library Awareness Week and was conceived by the Seattle Public Library Foundation and piloted in 2019.

Due to COVID-19, no appeal took place in 2020. When asked about the importance of the Annual Appeal, Trustee Chair Bill McClure stated, “Donations fill the funding gaps to present a wide range of programs that meet patron’s needs and to actively pursue new ideas and activities. Additionally, due to Covid, the Friends of the Library have been unable to present the semi-annual book

sales which have been large fundraisers for the library.” McClure continued, “The Trustees sincerely hope that supporters of the library will help the library maintain its outstanding service to the Town and its patrons.”

In past years, the Appeal has funded many essential building repairs and improvements, in addition to providing support for Library programs and services. “We know these are challenging times for everyone,” said Library Director Sheila McCormick. “We appreciate every gift we receive, but are well aware that contributing may not be possible for everyone. Nevertheless, each gift has a positive impact on our services.”

An appeal letter will be mailed to each household in Belchertown in the coming days. Donations may also be made by visiting the Library website at www.clapplibrary.org and clicking on the “Donate” button.

Belchertown Community Television schedule

BELCHERTOWN – This is the upcoming schedule for Thursday, April 1 to Wednesday, April 7.

Friday, April 2

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman

Saturday, April 3

- 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe

Sunday, April 4

- 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- 6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church

Monday, April 5

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 6:30 p.m. – Selectboard - Channel 191
- 6:30 p.m. – Board of Health - Channel 192

Tuesday, April 6

- 8 a.m. – Curious Giraffe
- 9 a.m. – Belchertown Community Garden
- 9:30 a.m. – Belchertown School Garden - Pollinator Garden
- 10 a.m. – Belchertown School Garden
- 7 p.m. – Belchertown Community Garden
- 7:30 p.m. – Belchertown School Garden - Pollinator Garden
- 8 p.m. – Belchertown School Garden

Wednesday, April 7

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman

The BCTV Studio is located at 68 State St., Belchertown. BCTV channels are 191, 192 and 193. The BCTV schedule is available at www.Belchertown.org. On the main title page select “residents,” click on Belchertown Community Television. Selected BCTV shows are also available on Vimeo. Go to www.Belchertown.org, go to quick links and click on “watch meetings and events online.” The schedule is subject to change.

The BCTV weather information system is broadcast on TV channel 193 and displays the current weather conditions at the BCTV station as well as, the current regional radar. This service operates 24 hours a day with audio provided by the National Weather Service from Albany New York, with forecasts, storm and emergency warnings for the Pioneer Valley.

Community Garden still accepting registrations

BELCHERTOWN – Individual, fully prepared, 300 square foot garden plots are available to all Belchertown and surrounding area residents at Lampson Brook Farm, located at 275 Jackson St.

Belchertown residents can obtain a plot for \$30 (non-residents \$35) for the season. Several plots will be made available to SNAP benefit recipients for only \$15 each.

This year, because of the continuing pandemic, the garden fee includes compost, the use of wheelbarrows, the loan of tools if needed, convenient access to water, and plentiful parking. Members of

the Community Garden also contribute several hours of their time during the season to maintaining the common areas. Prevailing COVID-19 restrictions will apply. The gardens will open mid-May.

The garden partners with the New England Small Farm Institute which leases the rich farmland of the former Belchertown State School. All gardeners, beginner or experienced, are welcome.

To receive a 2021 registration form or for questions email BCGardenNews@gmail.com. All applications must be received by April 12.

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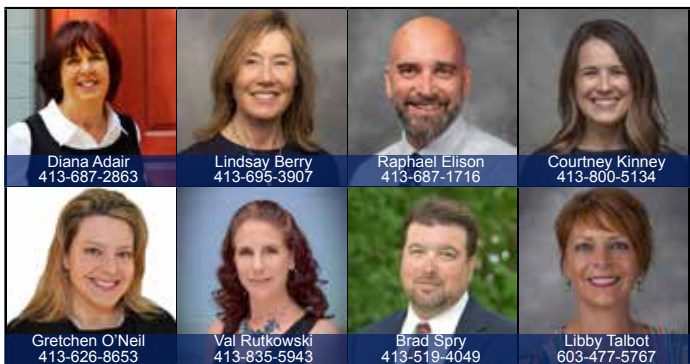
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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

COMMUNITY

Cultural Council to distribute historical coloring books

BELCHERTOWN — The Belchertown Cultural Council will be distributing copies of the popular Belchertown Historical Coloring Book to families in April as a gift to the community during these challenging times.

The reprint of this project — which began 25 years ago — is sponsored by the Belchertown Cultural Council. Interested individuals can pick up copies of the coloring book (while supplies last, limit two per household) on the Belchertown Town Common on the following dates: April 10 from 1 to 3 p.m.; April 11 from 9 to 11 a.m.

To meet COVID-19 precautions, masks are required and pickup will be contactless. To receive a copy of the book, please drive up to a BCC volunteer in the Common parking lot. A volunteer will place the items in vehicle's trunks or pass them through the window of a vacant vehicle seat. "I have been involved in many large fundraisers over the past 30 something years but the Belchertown Coloring Book continues to be the one that I am most proud of," said Cheryl Dutton, original creator of the coloring book.

She said the idea occurred to her 25 years ago after the town lost one of its historic buildings in the center of town due to a fire.

"One of the results of that fire was that people wanted to learn more about the buildings that once stood there," she said. "I can't even tell you how many PTO meetings I sat through and heard a parent say 'My daughter/son is always asking me about that building...' I remember the very first meeting when I bought together members of the Belchertown PTO and the Belchertown Historical Association. I was a member of both organizations and I have always believed that we can accomplish big things when we do them together."

Dutton said the timing of the release of the coloring book couldn't be better.

"So many parents and children (are) at home looking for safe and fun things to do," said Dutton. "Remote learning, home schooling, hybrid learning, cohorts, Netflix, take-out, good grief what is a parent to do? Color! Coloring makes everything better and learning fascinating bits about where you live while coloring is like winning the daily double. Doing it with your children is priceless. As RuPaul said: 'Life is about using the whole box of crayons.'"

Follow the Belchertown Cultural Council on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BelchertownCulturalCouncil> or visit their website at <https://belchertown-culturalcouncil.com/>



COURTESY PHOTO

Children will be able to participate in a Zoom program to learn how to make their own theater and puppet show.

Make your own puppet theatre and put on a show

BELCHERTOWN — The Clapp Memorial Presents Aesop's Fable Miniature 3D Puppet Theatre Craft and Zoom Program. Children will create their own theaters, puppets and practice shows, and share them through Zoom.

Mary Jo Maichack, a professional singer and storyteller, will guide you in making the theatre. She will share tips on storytelling and demonstrate one fable puppet show. Families are welcome to attend both time slots, but will only present at the one they choose when registering. Registration is required.

Please fill out this form <https://forms.gle/CDLfV958PSb6gd9> to register for this program. The program is limited to 25 families and geared for children ages 5 and up.

The Library will reach out to registered families to schedule a pick up time for the kit, and will send a video link out on April 9. Participants can attend the Zoom program on April 21 at 9 a.m. or 4 p.m.

This program is supported, in part by the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

CAC of Hampshire County and Northwestern DA host luminaria event

NORTHAMPTON — On the evening of April 1, to commemorate Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month, the Children's Advocacy Center of Hampshire County and Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan are hosting "This Little Light of Mine" a luminaria display at Childs Park in Northampton, the old Hampshire County Courthouse, and at the homes and businesses of our friends and supporters throughout the County.

Two thousand luminarias will be lit to represent the number of child abuse survivors the CAC has served since moving into our house on Elm St in Northampton in 2006.

"This Little Light of Mine" is an opportunity to shine a light on the issue of child abuse in Hampshire County. The vast majority of child abuse is perpetrated by someone the child knows, trusts, and often

loves. This past year has been especially difficult for the children in our community who are not safe at home. As kids begin to go back to in-person learning we anticipate an influx of reports of abuse from educators and other mandated reporters.

To participate in this pandemic era event during the evening hours of April 1, people can drive-by the sites, walk-through, or light a luminaria of their own in solidarity with survivors of child abuse.

In addition to this kick-off event, the following municipal organizations will hold flag-raising ceremonies on their grounds during the listed days and times. The children's memorial flag will be raised during April to commemorate Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month.

Amherst April 6, 9 a.m., Town Hall
Belchertown April 7, 11:30 a.m. at Town Hall

Holy Week and Easter services

BELCHERTOWN — Christ Community Church, at 1255 Federal St., Belchertown, will have Holy Week celebrations for both Good Friday and Easter Sunday. There will be in person services at 7 p.m. on Good Friday and 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Easter Sunday. The 7 p.m.

Good Friday service and 9 a.m. Easter morning service will also be available via livestream.

Please visit the CCC website www.gracefortheway.org to sign up for one of the services or to find livestream information.

Belchertown school gardens open to public for adoption

BELCHERTOWN — Looking for a great way to support the Belchertown schools and contribute to the community at the same time? Adopt a bed in the BPS School Garden! The School Garden Committee is looking for over 45 families (or BHS students with your own transportation) to step up and adopt a garden bed for the 2021 growing season. You'll be coached as you plant one crop, either from seed or "starts" — peas, cucumbers, squash, kale, spinach, tomatoes, beans, lettuce, broccoli, beets, or lots of greens.

You'll be asked to take care of the bed through the growing season — so why not partner up with another family and share the work and the joy? All the food grown in the School Garden is donated to organizations that help provide healthy food to the community. The committee hope to raise at least 700lbs of produce for donations this growing season.

Contact Louise Levy to sign up - llevy@belchertownps.org.

All COVID-19 rules and restrictions apply. You will use your own tools. Masks, physical distancing, and limited numbers of volunteers in the garden at any one time.



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We will also be offering our annual Summer Fun Program from June 21 – August 27.
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EDUCATION

Belchertown children's meals program menu

For the week of April 12 to April 16.

Note: Tuesday through Thursday are small meal kit items. Kindergarten through sixth grade, there will be no in school breakfast. For grade seven through 12, there will be a breakfast rack in the lobby.

Monday

Lunch: Kindergarten through sixth grade – cheesy bread with marinara dip.
Seventh through 12th grade – meatball grinder, steamed vegetables and sidekicks smoothie.

Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: sunbutter and jelly sandwich.

Tuesday (Small Meal Kits come home)

Lunch: Kindergarten through 12th grade – French toast sticks, breakfast sausage, corn, roasted chickpeas.

Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: cereal meal with yogurt.

Wednesday - Curbside Meal Kit Pickup at BHS 11 a.m. from 1 p.m.

Grades seven through 12: remote learning day.

Lunch: Kindergarten through sixth grade: mandarin chicken, rice, broccoli, chow mien noodles.

Kindergarten through sixth grade alter-

native: sunbutter and jelly sandwich.

Thursday

Lunch: Kindergarten through grade 12: beef taco, crunchy pepper strips and fiesta black bean salad.

Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: cheese sandwich.

Friday – Small meal kits come home and orders due today for next week.

Lunch: Kindergarten through 12th grade: grilled cheese, veggies sticks with dip and chips.

Kindergarten through sixth grade alternative: ham sandwich.

Note: The menu is subject to change.

PreK follows a separate menu which has been sent home.

Grades seven through 12: free breakfast rack offers whole grain cereals and cereal bars, muffins, bagels, breads, sweet rolls, pop tarts, fruit and 100% fruit juice, and white milk.

Grades kindergarten through six offer daily in-school lunch entrée alternates as listed on menu with fruit/vegetable options from main meal.

Grades seven through 12 offer daily in-school entrée alternative choices: pizza station, deli bar, and soup and salad.

Belchertown food program to make changes

BELCHERTOWN – As Belchertown Public Schools prepare for students to return to school full time, there will be changes to the elementary school, according to Kelly Slattery, the school's food service director.

All school meals for all children 18 and younger will remain free through the end of the school year and beyond that, to the end of the summer.

"To remain compliant with social distancing requirements, we need to change the way we eat meals in school," Slattery wrote in recent letter to the school community.

As of April 5, there will no longer be breakfast/morning snack time during the school day in grades one through six due to lack of ability to social distance. This will not affect students at Cold Spring

School, who may bring a snack from home or order a free breakfast from the cafeteria.

"We will continue to make breakfast available to eat at home before coming to school," Slattery wrote.

Parents will have the option to pick up a full week of breakfast meals including fruit and milk, plus breakfast, lunch and milk for the weekend at either curbside pickup on Wednesdays starting April 7. These meals are free to all children.

Lunch will be eaten in cafeterias, gymnasiums, common spaces and classrooms where social distancing is possible. Children may bring lunch from home or get school lunch. School lunch will continue to be free for all children, and

See **FOOD PROGRAM**, page 7 •

Belchertown seniors featured in Q and A



Griffin Weiss plans on going to Centre College after high school.



Griffin Weiss

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown High School Principal Christine Vigneux has begun featuring a member of the Class of 2021 in a question and answer survey about their tenure in the school.

Each of the seniors featured decorated a cap sharing their future plans and they have also answered questions about their experiences at "the Nest," the school community of Belchertown Public Schools.

These seniors will be featured in the Sentinel as well.

Griffin Weiss

What are your future plans?

My future plans are to attend Centre College in Danville, KY to study molecular biology and behavioral neuroscience where I will also be playing lacrosse. After that, I plan on attending graduate school with aspirations of obtaining a Ph.D. in neuropsychology or genetics.

What is your favorite memory from the Nest?

My favorite memory from the Nest is the spirit assembly from my junior year. It was the last time I saw everyone together in the gym and the spirit assemblies are always extremely exciting, fun, and competitive.

What advice do you have for our younger Orioles?

Do your schoolwork, it pays off in the end. Do not spend 6 hours a night doing

schoolwork, but find a balance between having a social life and getting your schoolwork done because, at the end of your senior year, the memories with your friends are the ones with the most meaning.

What is your proudest moment as an Oriole?

My proudest moment as an Oriole is not just one moment, but my whole experience in high school. If I had to pinpoint one specific achievement, receiving my acceptance letter for college is my proudest moment. Going into my freshman year, I did not know what to expect after high school, but now I know that all of the teachers and faculty members at Belchertown High School have prepared me to take classes at the highest level at a top 50 college.

Thank you to all the teachers, coaches, and any other faculty members that have pushed me to be the best athlete, student and leader that I can be!

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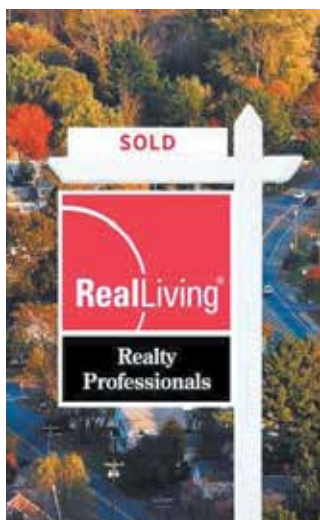


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■ OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Twenty-three miles of ‘fun’

Saving the best – and worst – for last hike of winter

JULIE MIDURA
Correspondent

When Tom and I lost our minds and decided to attempt to climb all 48 New Hampshire 4,000-foot mountains in winter, the Zealand/Bonds traverse was the one that made me lose sleep at night.

How on Earth would we be able to pull off that little miracle? Not that we’re “old” by any means – well, one of us isn’t anyway – but this is the Bonds we’re talking about! What kind of demented couple, one of whom is a senior citizen, decides it would be fun to hike 23.2 miles over five, 4,000-foot mountains in a single day in the dead of winter?! And more importantly – why?

Well, the answer is pretty obvious. We want to earn that cute little round patch that we get to sew onto our backpack once we complete them all. But in all seriousness, this crazy adventure has allowed Tom and I to move beyond our comfort zone and to challenge ourselves in ways we never dreamed possible.

So on the final Saturday of winter, we hiked what has been our most challenging hike so far – the Zealand/Bonds traverse. These mountains are in the heart of the 45,000-acre Pemigewasset Wilderness. The Bonds are among the most remote of the 4,000 footers, and as such, every trail that reaches their summits is a long and arduous one.

When we originally planned this hike, we envisioned sunny skies, temps in the 30s, minimal wind, and a solidly packed trail. What we actually encountered was nothing of the sort. The forecast called for wind chill temps in the negative 20s and sustained winds in the 35 mph range with gusts up to 50 mph.

Tom and I know our limits regarding wind speed and temperature and as such; We’re unwilling to take the risks that we were willing to take when we were younger. What can I say, it comes with age. Something called self-preservation.

We asked ourselves if it would be worth the potential suffering just to bag several peaks. After all, we began this quest to have fun and to challenge ourselves, not as a test to determine how much misery we could withstand. So we decided to go in spite of the wind chills predictions with the caveat that we would turn back if the conditions were too extreme to continue.

Snow was falling steadily and the wind was



COURTESY PHOTO

Julie and Tom on the summit of Mt. Bond, their 44th winter ascent.

howling when we stepped out of our car near Zealand Road at 4:30 a.m. One of the drawbacks of winter hiking is that several of the mountains require a road walk just to get to the trailhead because some of the roads are not maintained in winter. On this particular hike, we needed to walk 3.7 miles on the road just to reach the trailhead.

We were able to wear micro-spikes on our feet for the road walk, but switched to snowshoes once we reached Zealand trail. The snow continued to fall, so we were forced to break trail through fresh snow that was anywhere between three inches to over a foot deep. Breaking trail is exhausting work, so Tom and I took turns taking the lead position.

Once we were above tree line, the combination of fresh snow and fierce wind erased all signs of the trail. We spent valuable time trying to find the path that is usually very obvious on a summer day. Based on the less than ideal conditions, we began to wonder if we’d have the stamina to complete the entire traverse, or if we’d need to turn back after reaching Zealand Mountain – our first mountain of the day.

But alas, there is a God, because not only did the sun finally make an appearance, but about a half mile before we reached Zealand Mountain, two angels appeared from behind us – and they were wearing snowshoes! We stepped aside, enormously relieved to have someone in front of us breaking out the trail. We reached Mt. Zealand shortly after, then continued on.

The entire traverse is a blend of above treeline exposure intermixed with hiking in the shelter of the trees. When we reached the alpine zone on

the shoulder of Mt. Guyot, we experienced the full onslaught of nature’s fury as the wind roared all around us. I braced myself a few times with my trekking poles to avoid being knocked off balance. If the hike had required several miles of hiking above treeline, we couldn’t have endured the strength of the wind, but knowing that we would periodically escape its wrath by hiking into the protection of the trees made it tolerable.

We hiked up West Bond next, followed by Mt. Bond. It was 3:30 p.m. when we reached Bondcliff – our final peak of the day. We had been hiking almost non-stop for the past 11 hours. As elated as we were to be standing on our final mountain of the day, we knew that we still had nine miles to go to get to our car. Thankfully, Bondcliff Trail was well packed out, so we were able to remove our heavy snowshoes and wear our spikes for the descent.

As we strapped our snowshoes onto our packs, I groaned under the added weight on my back. However, heavier packs mean lighter feet. Without heavy snowshoes on our feet, we practically flew down the mountain.

We arrived at the bridge that marks the end of the hike just as I was certain that I couldn’t take one more step. My legs were propelling me forward only out of sheer necessity. We crossed the bridge that leads to the parking lot at 7:30 p.m. – 15 hours from the time we started.

We did it!

Twenty-three miles, five mountains, 15 hours. It’s amazing what the mind and body can do when the heart leads the way.

Peace, and hike on!

Julie Midura is a resident of Ludlow.

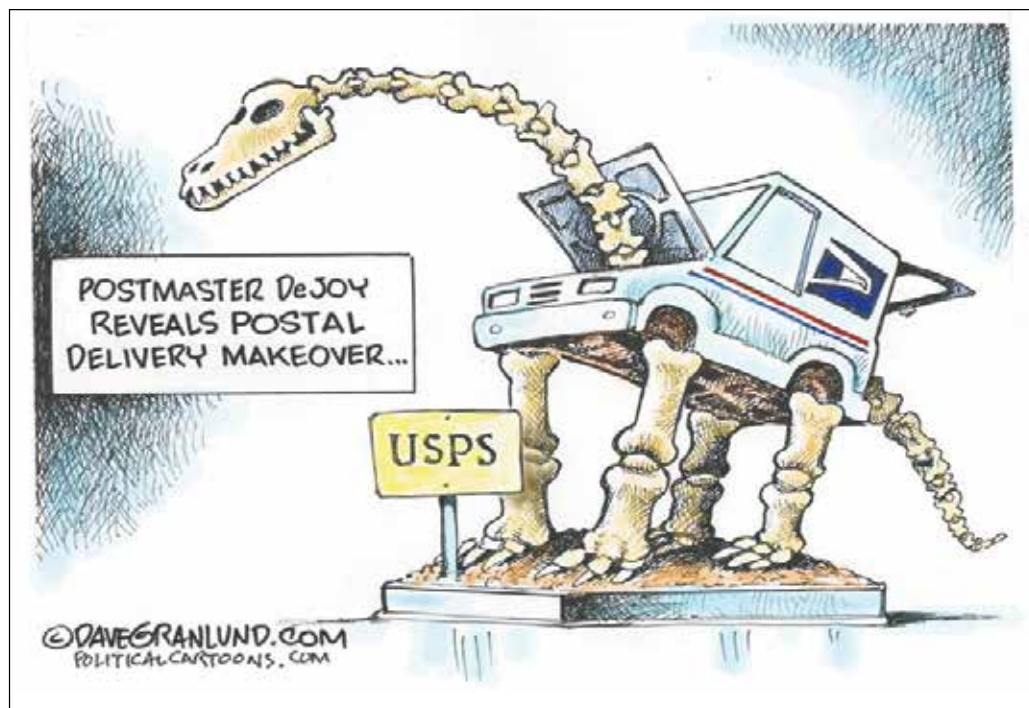
LETTER

A win/win for Belchertown

I’m proud Belchertown has a strong tradition of striving to be “green.” The town became a certified “Green Community” back in 2010 by implementing a five-year plan to reduce energy consumption by 20%. Last year, I had the privilege to serve as “Solar Coach” for the Solarize Belchertown campaign that resulted in an additional 70 Belchertown residents installing solar PV (thereby generating their own clean energy).

This year, Belchertown continues this “green” tradition by establishing the Energy and Sustainability Committee. Members are seeking sustainable energy solutions for our residents. One initiative the committee is actively looking at is the idea of banding together as a community to leverage “bulk” buying power to offer Belchertown residents “cleaner” electricity at a potentially lower rate than residents are paying now (while ensuring the source of that electricity is from renewable and clean sources). This is called “Community Choice Aggregation” (also known as Municipal Green Aggregation) and represents a win/win opportunity for all of us. Residents will have an opportunity to weigh in on this issue at Town Meeting in June.

CCA allows residents and small business to seamlessly switch to more renewable forms of electricity. The Selectboard employs an “energy broker” to ensure the municipality can purchase the amount of energy needed, from “clean” sources but at a discounted “bulk” rate. The electricity will still be distributed and billed by



the original utility (i.e. National Grid). However, since residents can opt out of being part this program, there is literally no risk to us. Only benefits...and there are many benefits: reduced greenhouse gas emissions by utilizing more renewable energy sources, better price stability compared to the utility’s basic service. When you combine this with competitive, often times lower prices than standard utility rate, you can

see why our committee considers this a win/win for everyone.

Ironically, even as Solar Coach advocating for solar, my house was not viable due to the many trees. It’s great to know there are other ways to lower my carbon footprint other than installation of solar panels. Community Choice Aggregation is one such way.

Frank Byrne

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Sentinel Editor Melina Bourdeau, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or via email to sentinel@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.

SENTINEL

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POLICE LOGS

Belchertown Police

Editor’s note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of March 17 through March 23. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day. Of the 273 calls police responded to, there were nine incidents, three accidents, four arrest/summons and 11 citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Saturday, March 20

11:35 a.m. – A 54 year old Lowell man was charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. An officer responded to an accident on Federal and Allen St. One vehicle was travelling east when it was struck by another vehicle. The operator of the second vehicle was at a stop sign and reported they didn’t see the first vehicle when they pulled out into the road. No injuries vehicle one towed from the scene. During their investigation, it was discovered the operator was not licensed. The person reported they borrowed a relative’s vehicle to visit their brother. The operator was issued a criminal application.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS
Thursday, March 18

5:29 p.m. – Officers met with a person at the department. The party was dropping off a firearm. They requested it be stored and held for safe keeping.

Friday, March 19

3:15 p.m. – Officers responded to Allen Rd for a report of a found a child. Officers spoke with the reporting party saw a child walking in the street. One of the callers

stopped and removed the child from the road and took them into a driveway. An officer drove up the driveway and two people came running down, they were identified as mother and father of the child who were also looking for the child. The parents reported they were outside and looked away then the child was gone. DCF and the SRO were notified of the incident.

4:24 p.m. – Officers responded to Federal St for a verbal dispute between a husband and wife. There were allegations of male being verbally abusive and aggressive. Officers advised the parties of their rights. The incident was document and DCF notified because there was a child in the home.

6:43 p.m. – Officers assisted Belchertown fire and paramedics.

Saturday, March 20

7:23 p.m. – Officers responded to an accident on Summit St. The operator was one vehicle was travelling south on Summit St when they left the roadway and struck a pole. The operator said they swerved to the right to avoid a truck traveling north bound. There was right side and rear damage to the vehicle. The operator was able to arrange for a tow.

Sunday, March 21

4:47 a.m. – Officers assisted Belchertown fire and paramedics.

Monday, March 22

6:45 a.m. – Officers assisted Belchertown fire and paramedics.

5:29 p.m. – An officer on a routine patrol when they pulled up on a vehicle that was abandoned on Franklin St. The officer asked Palmer Police to see if there was contact information for the registered owner. Traffic was going into the other lane to avoid the vehicle. The vehicle was removed from the roadway. After the vehicle left the area, the officer asked to return

to station because of a report of a person at the door. The person reported they borrowed the vehicle left in town and then walked home. The owner later arrived and was given a tow release.

Tuesday, March 23

12:26 a.m. – Officers assisted Belchertown fire and paramedics

8:30 a.m. – Officers responded to a residence for a report of a person who made suicidal comments on social media took off on foot from the residence. Officers looked around the area. A K-9 officer was contacted to see if they could do a track of the person. Officers tried to search neighboring woods and nearby trails. There was a “be on the look out” call put out. Officers went back to the residence for another search. It was reported the person returned home. Officer responded to location relative said the party was back inside of the residence. They said they wanted to harm themselves. An ambulance was contacted and they were transported from the scene.

11:34 a.m. – Officers assisted Belchertown fire and paramedics.

6:16 p.m. – Officers responded to Mill Valley Rd for a report of a past physical altercation. The reporting party denied medical attention. Officers spoke with the reporting party who said a friend came over and the two began to argue. The other party was upset and called the reporting party names. The reporting party said they were slapped across face didn’t want any criminal charges but wanted the incident documented. The party was advised of their harassment rights.

7:47 p.m. – Officers spoke with a party who came to the station to drop off a debit card that was left at a bank’s ATM. A message was left for the owner of the card and was placed into property.

8:13 p.m. – Officers responded to a residence to conduct a well being check on a teenager who made threats to harm themselves.

Granby Police

Editor’s Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 163 calls for the week of March 19 through March 25. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. All information is provided by the Granby Police Department.

Saturday, March 20

9:42 a.m. – Officers took a report of identity theft. The incident is still under investigation.

8:15 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on East State St. The operator struck a deer and vehicle was damaged.

Monday, March 22

6:19 a.m. – Officers issued a criminal citation for unlicensed motor vehicle operation.

8:43 a.m. – Officers investigated a report of identity theft.

8:49 p.m. – Officers investigated a motor vehicle accident on Harris St No injuries were reported.

Tuesday, March 23

7:27 p.m. – Brandon Chambers, 34, of 22 Percy St, Chicopee, was arrested operating a motor vehicle with suspended license.

Wednesday, March 24

6:45 p.m. – Nancy Mestre, 50, of 6 Carver Street, Granby, was arrested on a warrant.

Thursday, March 25

7:01 p.m. – Officers issued a criminal citation for operation with a suspended license.

GRANBY ATM • from page 1

Firefighters

Granby Selectboard denied a request to allow firefighters to carry over overtime.

The Granby Firefighters Association requested that fire personnel be permitted to carry over five days of overtime from Fiscal Year 2020 to Fiscal Year 2021. Under their current contracts, firefighters are allowed to carry over five days of overtime annually.

“The fact is because of COVID, they don’t have places to go and take their vacation so they want to be able to carry over twice the number of days,” said Town Administrator Christopher Martin during the March 22 Selectboard meeting.

While several town or elected officials opposed the notion of allowing the transfer of more overtime days, Martin was the most outspoken against the request.

“Personally, I have a problem with that because vacation days are used to get off the job and recharge your batteries,” said Martin. “They aren’t taken only to go somewhere else. If you can’t go some-

where else, it’s not a legitimate reason to say, ‘I should be allowed to carry them over.’”

Martin noted that five days for five employees would amount to 25 additional days of overtime, causing taxpayers to compensate the extra shifts.

Sexton agreed, noting that many residents have been forced to stay home on vacations during the past 12-plus months.

“A lot of people were in the same type of predicament where they took time off and couldn’t go anywhere but had to take time off. If you had a planned vacation, you still had to take that time off of work, regardless of if your plans were cancelled and you couldn’t go away,” said Sexton.

From a financial standpoint, Sexton felt that it was the proper decision to reject the union’s request.

“I think that fiscally it doesn’t make a lot of sense,” said Sexton. “We’d have to look for coverage. Depending on how many people did that, you’d be looking at a substantial number of days that have to be covered if we just add it onto the last time.”

FOOD PROGRAMS • from page 5

the schools will offer a main meal and an alternative meal each day. There will not be any a la carte snack items to purchase in the cafeterias at this time.

Students with medically documented food allergies will receive appropriate accommodations. If this pertains to your child, please make sure the school nurse has current allergy information. Drinking water will be available to students at lunch regardless of whether they bring lunch from home or get lunch at school. With the weather getting warmer, students should also consider bringing a water bottle to school for consumption during mask breaks.

Starting April 7, curbside meal kit pick-up will run on Wednesdays at BHS from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 5 to 6 p.m. Parents of SRE and CHCS students will have the option to pick up breakfast for the week plus weekend meals (including milk) at either of these times. Small meal kits will continue to be offered to students in JBMS and BHS who are hybrid and not yet full time, and large meal kits to students learning remotely in all grades, or children not enrolled in the school district.

With children returning to school full time, families who received p-EBT funds will see a reduction in their benefits. To prevent a gap in benefits, please visit www.map-ebt.org/snap to apply for the SNAP program (formerly food stamps).

The Library Loft

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HOURS:
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Thurs. 10am - 4pm • Fri. 10am-4pm

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PART-TIME CONSERVATION SECRETARY

The Town of Belchertown is accepting applications for a part-time Conservation Secretary. This is a part-time, non-benefitted position. The purpose of this position is to perform administrative and clerical work of moderate difficulty and responsibility supporting the operations of the Conservation Commission.

A job description for this position and an employment application are available by calling the Select Board's Office (413-323-0403) during regular business hours. The deadline to apply is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 16, 2021.

DEATH NOTICES

George W. Schnugger
Died March 22, 2021
Services are private

Kenneth A. Dorey
Died March 17, 2021
Services will be private

Carol J. Davis
Passed away recently
Services are private

The Sentinel
OBITUARY
POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$120, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

OBITUARIES

Carol Davis



BELCHERTOWN – Carol J. Davis, 74, of Belchertown passed away recently after a short illness. She was born in Holyoke and raised in Chicopee.

She graduated from Chicopee Comp H. S. in 1964 and went on to get her nursing degree from the UMass School of Nursing and later a business degree from International College in Ft. Myers, FL. She was married to her high school sweetheart, Michael Davis for 53 years. She leaves her children Shawn Davis and wife Christine of Gainesville, FL and Kristin Davis Duke and husband Quentin Duke of Belchertown. She also leaves her beloved grandchildren, Logan and Madison Mae Duke of Belchertown and Killian Davis of Gainesville, FL. She also leaves her sister Susan Taylor and husband Daniel of Easthampton; brother-in-law Larry Davis and wife Kathy of Feeding Hills; sister-in-law Donna Davis and brother-in-law Kevin Davis both of Cape Coral, FL; and brother-in-law William Davis and wife Judy of South. Hadley; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

She had a varied career working as a surgical nurse at Baystate Hospital in her younger years and retired from the University of Florida College of Public Health in Gainesville, FL. No matter where she lived in her travels, she always made her house a home.

There are no calling hours and there will be a private service and burial at the Massachusetts Veterans’ Cemetery in Agawam. In lieu of flowers she requested a donation to the Shriners Children’s Hospital in Springfield.

Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements. For more information, please visit www.beersandstory.com.

Kenneth Dorey



LUDLOW—Kenneth A. Dorey, 69, passed away at Baystate Medical Center on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 after a short illness.

Son of the late Malcolm and Shirley (Hazen) Dorey, he was born in Holyoke on Feb. 2, 1952 and after high school, went on to attend UMass Amherst. Ken was the owner of Dorey Jeep and also worked for many years.

Ken was a longtime member of the Masons, Shriners and Lions Clubs. He was an avid collector and enjoyed his variety of stamps over the years. He enjoyed walking the Ludlow Mills almost daily with his daughter, Patty, and his best friend Gene New, with whom he frequently played

many games of cards with over the years.

Ken will be missed by all who knew him, including his loving daughter and caretaker of 14 years, Patty Beauregard of Ludlow; his daughters Kimberly (Dorey) Dominguez of Florida and Erica Johnson of CO; his son Kevin Dorey of NY; his grandchildren Emily and Olivia Beauregard, Logan and Isabella Dominguez, Michael and Alexis Nixon, and Samantha Johnson; several siblings; as well as many extended family members and friends.

Services will be private and at the convenience of the family. Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home entrusted with Ken’s arrangements.

George Schnugger



BELCHERTOWN – George W. Schnugger, 91, passed away unexpectedly on March 22, 2021. He was born on Feb. 16, 1930 in Tacoma, Washington to the late Herman and Inga (Ellingson) Schnugger. He was raised by his loving mother and grandmother, Clara Ellingson. George proudly served his country in the US Air Force as a navigator for over 20 years, retiring as a Major. During his courageous time in the service, George was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross during Operation Niagara in Vietnam, the Air Medal for acts of heroism, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal for ten years of honorable service, and also received the Purple Heart.

In his leisure, George was an avid reader and enjoyed studying science, aviation, and astronomy. He especially cherished the memories from time spent with his family and invested his energy in caring for them above all else.

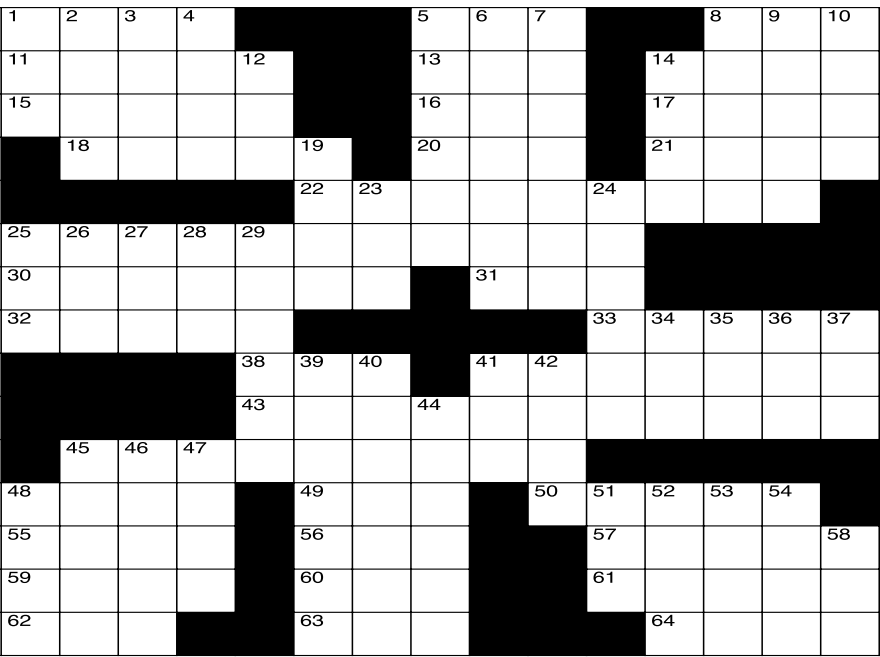
Besides his parents, George was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 64 years, Sally (Burke) Schnugger. He will be forever missed by his three daughters, Susan and husband, Douglas Miller; Nancy and husband, Henry Kwiatkowski; Carol and husband, Robert Barszcz. He also leaves his five grandchildren, Joshua and wife, Julie; Daniel and wife, Gabrielle; Benjamin; Robert Jr.; and Lynn; as well as his great-granddaughter, Zoe.

Due to current restrictions, George’s burial will be held privately and at the discretion of his family. He will be laid to rest with his late wife, Sally, at Massachusetts Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery in Agawam. A Celebration of Life will be held when restrictions are lifted. In lieu of flowers, donations in George’s memory can be made to the USO by visiting www.USO.org.

Please visit www.beersandstory.com for more information and to extend online condolences.



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- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Now and ____
 - 5. Israeli city ____ Aviv
 - 8. Indicates near
 - 11. Minneapolis suburb
 - 13. Large Australian flightless bird
 - 14. Fine-grained earth
 - 15. Plant genus that includes water caltrop
 - 16. Peacock network
 - 17. TV writer Dunham
 - 18. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
 - 20. They ____
 - 21. Muslim ruler title
 - 22. Position given in respect of
 - 25. Explaining further
 - 30. Measuring instrument
 - 31. Romanian monetary unit
 - 32. Council of ___, 1545-
- 1563

 - 33. Savory jelly made with meat stock
 - 38. Journalist Tarbell
 - 41. Most suspenseful
 - 43. Festivity
 - 45. Animal embryos
 - 48. Fertility god
 - 49. Medical patients’ choice (abbr.)
 - 50. Type of sword
 - 55. Competition
 - 56. Bird of the cuckoo family
 - 57. Afflicted in mind or body
 - 59. Engineering organization
 - 60. Beverage receptacle
 - 61. Spiritual leader
 - 62. Doctor of Education
 - 63. Where golfers begin
 - 64. Impudence
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Vietnamese offensive
 - 2. Fast mammal
 - 3. Oh goodness!
 - 4. The back of one’s neck
 - 5. One who lives in another’s property
 - 6. Involve deeply
 - 7. Alfalfa
 - 8. Tropical tree resin
 - 9. Sudden fear
 - 10. Jewish religious month
 - 12. Veterans battleground
 - 14. Musical symbol
 - 19. German river
 - 23. Paddle
 - 24. Lizard
 - 25. Shock treatment
 - 26. The common gibbon
 - 27. Brew
 - 28. Usually has a lid
 - 29. Lenses in optical instruments
 - 34. Time zone in
 - 35. Samoa (abbr.)
 - 36. Denotes equal
 - 37. TV network for children
 - 39. Take the value away from
 - 40. Female graduates
 - 41. Don’t know when yet
 - 42. “__ tú”: Spanish song
 - 44. “Seinfeld” character
 - 45. Bleated
 - 46. Entwined
 - 47. Away from wind
 - 48. Soft creamy white cheese
 - 51. Swiss river
 - 52. Prejudice
 - 53. Actor Idris
 - 54. They resist authority (slang)
 - 58. Speak ill of

TESTING • from page 1

Participating districts and schools will receive the test kits, support from a testing service provider, and the testing software to track results, all at no cost to them, until April 28.”

Superintendent Brian Cameron presented the results of a recent survey to district families, the majority of which supported the idea of pooled testing.

“There were 1,734 individual students or 79% of enrolled students (represented in the survey.) In response to full time in person learning 75% of respondents indicated they intend participate in full time in person learning,” Cameron said. “Among the students learning in person 69% would participate in the pool testing if offered.”

While some preliminary work on pooled testing was started, Cameron said there is still work to be done before testing begins.

“We have to hire someone to oversee it, that will take some time. There will be a cost. If the state stops on April 28, I believe the estimated cost was \$54,000 that didn’t include the programming,” he said. “We are going to do it I feel like we should plan for picking up the tab unless we hear differently from the state.”

There are also additional costs associated with pooled testing. School Nurse Leader Phyllis DuComb said some costs are yet to be known.

“The cost we thought we were going to have to do was the courier who would take the tests to Boston and the cost for the software, which we don’t know what that is yet. They haven’t let anyone know what that cost will be,” she said. “(There will also be the cost of) the staff we’ll need to run it and then do the contact tracing.”

She predicted there would be about 1,100 students and 200 staff members participating in the pooled testing.

Funds for the project will be in part from the lasted stimulus package as well as other school department funds.

Committee members expressed support of the testing.

School Committee Chair Heidi Gutekenst said she was in support of doing pooled testing despite the fact the district may have to pay for it.

“I would love to say, ‘Yeah, let’s do it while it’s being paid for,’ but I feel like we won’t really know results by then,” she said. “We’re going to need to pay for this ourselves for a while before we can see if we’re getting anything back from it.”

Committee member Mike Knapp said from his personal experience with pooled testing through UMass Amherst, he agreed it would be a good idea.

“(If) it’s able to catch cases before the symptoms show up so you’re able to pull infected people out of the population earlier than you would otherwise. That’s one issue,” he said. “The other is psychological, it seems like having kids in school following certain protocols for safety – masking, distancing and airflow – it seems that does work but I think a lot of people are nervous. If we could help provide them another layer of reassurance that would go far in helping to get kids in school and staff to know what we’re dealing with as district in the schools.”

Committee member Diane Brown echoed her fellow members’ points.

“I think that it would give parents, teachers and kids another feeling of security and makes them feel more comfortable going back to school,” Brown said. “There are 10 weeks before the end of the school year. We have a good number of people who want their children to take part in this and I would go with it.”

In her comments, committee member Ruby Bansal said the testing could serve to show that the schools are taking the correct precautions.

“I have heard other districts that have done it, have found very few cases and in some ways that’s great,” she said. “If we find very few cases it’s that added level of knowing we’re doing everything right.”

GRANBY

‘Attracting Birds, Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficial’

GRANBY – There will be a power point presentation offered by naturalist and landscaper John Root, on “Attracting Birds, Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficials” on Tuesday, April 6 at 7 p.m.

Root will describe the essential roles played by birds, pollinators, and other beneficial wildlife and provides guidance on meeting their needs for food, cover, and water.

A variety of plants that nourish these organisms throughout their lifecycles is discussed, and organic methods for establishing wildlife habitat are also presented.

Handouts are downloadable, and comments and questions will be welcome at the conclusion of the program. A recording of this event will be scheduled for multiple broadcasts by Granby Community Access and Media will be made accessible at their website via YouTube.

Cosponsored by the Friends of the Granby Free Public Library.

This program is supported in part by the Granby Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/b6xj2nnp>
Meeting ID: 892 6050 6910
Passcode: 090378

Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 892 6050 6910
Passcode: 090378

GCAM seeks questions

GRANBY – Granby Community Access and Media will be reaching out to 2021 candidates in Granby running for town office to do one-on-one interviews.

GCAM is looking for your input on what staff should be asking this year’s candidates. All you have to do is fill out the Google Form below, enter for a chance to win a \$25 Dunkin Gift Card, and two questions will be picked from each race.

<https://forms.gle/pr4LkqtNuU2pjiEt5>

Immaculate Heart of Mary hosts chicken parm dinner

GRANBY – Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Granby, located at 256 State St, will be holding chicken parmesan dinner, put on by The event will be hosted by the Men & Women’s Club, on Sunday, April 11, from 4 to 6 p.m. This meal is take-out only. The cost is \$10.

As Schools Match Wits historic 60th season

Local schools to compete starting Saturday, April 10

SPRINGFIELD – As Schools Match Wits, a joint production of New England Public Media and Westfield State University will return for its 60th season on NEPM TV on Saturday, April 10 at 7 p.m. Last year’s 59th season was cut short by COVID-19, but with new safety guidelines and carefully designed protocols, the 60th season will proceed with the participation of local high schools.

NEPM ASMW Executive Producer Tony Dunne recently noted, “We’re tremendously excited to be going ahead with the 60th season of As Schools Match Wits. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued, there were times when we wondered if we were going to be able to make it happen. But, with the latest safety guidelines — both here in the region and throughout the nation — and thanks to the technical wizardry of our partners at Westfield State University, we’re thrilled to be able to continue this western New England tradition!”

Head-to-head competition

ASMW pits teams of western New England high schoolers against each other in a fun, but competitive game of academic performance. The competition is open to both public and private high schools throughout western New England.

Schools go head-to-head in qualifying matches to see which team can earn the greatest number of points. For season 60, viewers will be able to watch two back-to-back competitions at 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday evenings starting April 10. The four highest-scoring teams of the season will compete in playoff matches to determine the season’s champion, which will then be awarded the coveted Collamore Cup, named for the show’s creator.

See **SCHOOLS MATCH WITS**, page 10 •



Boy Scout Troop 306 will be hosting a can and bottle drive on April 17.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Troop 306 can and bottle drive

GRANBY - Last November Boy Scout Troop 306 hosted a can and bottle drive to raise money to help make their Scouting experience more meaningful. They raised over \$600 dollars from the drive.

They are once again planning to have a drive on April 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Common St at the Common in Granby. They will be collecting plastic water bottles, soda and beer cans, soda and beer bottles, Arizona and all iced tea cans. Please remove the pull tabs and bring them in a plastic bag. They will be donated to the Shriner’s Hospital in Springfield. Gather up all those unwanted cans and bottles and bring them to the Common.



Boy Scout Troop 306 is doing a can and bottle drive, they raised over \$600.

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SCHOOLS MATCH WITS • from page 9

The show must go on

As Schools Match Wits is hosted by Beth Ward, who was glad to hear about the green light for Season 60.

“I’m so incredibly grateful that we are able to get this season started! Of course, with COVID-19 safety protocols, things will be a bit different,” said Ward. “I’ll be in the ASMW studio solo, the teams will be in separate rooms just outside the studio, and we’ll all be joined seamlessly by the magic of television. We have worked so hard to make this historic 60th season one to remember!”

Westfield State ASMW Executive Producer Mark St. Jean agreed.

“It’s not only great to have the area high school teams competing again, but it’s great to have our Westfield State student production crew back,” said Jean. “Most of them are seniors and they are really pumped to be working on this show again after all those months of having only online meetings for classes. And I am very grateful to the Westfield State Administration for helping us get back on the air with a safe social-distancing plan in place.”

For Season 60, the preliminary round of matches will premiere on NEPM TV as follows:

April 10:

- East Longmeadow Vs. Holyoke High at 7 p.m.
- Lee High Vs. Ware High at 7:30 p.m.

April 17:

- Agawam High Vs. Chicopee Comp at 7 p.m.
- Hall High School Vs. Smith Academy at 7:30 p.m.

April 24:

- Windsor High Vs. Belchertown High at 7 p.m.
- Minnechaug High Vs. Amherst Regional at 7:30 p.m.

May 1:

- Frontier Regional Vs. Pope Francis Prep at 7 p.m.
- Memorial Vs. Hampshire Regional at 7:30 p.m.

May 8:

- East Granby Vs. Wahconah Regional at 7 p.m.
- Mount Greylock Vs. Pioneer Valley at 7:30 p.m.

May 15:

- Semifinal Match 1 at 7 p.m.
- Semifinal Match 2 at 7:30 p.m.

May 22:

- Championship Match at 7 p.m.

Please note: schedule subject to change. All matches are available for online viewing at video.nepm.org shortly after their TV broadcast.

ECONOMIC PLAN • from page 1

public hearing will likely be after the Annual Town Meeting, which is tentatively scheduled in June.

The public is invited to send their comments on the draft to the Planning Board at Planning@belchertown.org.

The town received a grant through Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to do survey work related to the plan. A similar grant helped to do the open space and recreation plan, which the Conservation Commission and Recreation Department are working on.

Through a survey last summer, the town was able to gather 303 responses. One notable response was that 51.7% of respondents don’t support rezoning land.

“I have found that usually people always say that we need more business, but when zoning changes are proposed, people say it’s in a bad location,” Albertson said. “Most people want businesses, but they don’t want land use to be changed.”

Based on survey data, “At least 75 percent of respondents found overall business climate, regulatory environment, and market for products and services fair or good. Whereas, 79 percent of survey respondents found the mix of businesses in town to be fair or poor.”

One of the key issues identified was “the need for affordable, available space to conduct business as well as the need to re-purpose vacant or underutilized buildings.”

An inventory of available properties is listed in the plan, which include Berkshire Row, 55 Main St and others.

There are four goals laid out by the draft plan, which are:

Strengths	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historic town center and common• Significant natural beauty and conserved open space• Agricultural history and fertile soils• Access to Quabbin Reservoir and site of Quabbin Visitors Center• Good transportation connections to Route 9, Route 202 and the Mass Pike.• Belchertown EDIC and MassDevelopment assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carriage Grove Industrial Area - potential growth and economic activity• Farm-to-Table activities — restaurants, specialty goods, small-scale food processing• Activities and events at Lampson Brook Farm• Town Center revitalization• Development of vibrant cultural activities and gathering places
Weaknesses	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No “hub” of activity: development is piecemeal and amenities are not connected• Few shopping opportunities• Four Corners area has little “sense of place”• Few places to eat out or spend time in public• Economic development opportunities are sometimes lost to adjacent communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential resistance to certain kinds of new development, particularly agricultural and commercial activity adjacent to residential areas• Residential sprawl, specifically, a housing boom that greatly expands the use of ANR lots and 1-acre zoning (approx.) in the Ag-A and Ag-B Districts.• Insufficient tax revenue to support residential service needs• Loss of forest and agricultural lands

COURTESY IMAGE

The draft economic development plan developed by the town officials and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission lays out the following strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats.

- Conduct a business retention and expansion program, including a buy-local initiative and assistance in forming business alliances.
 - Continue to work with MassDevelopment and the Belchertown Economic Development Industrial Corporation to solicit developers and businesses for Carriage Grove sites.
 - Seek new developers and landlords for other vacant/underutilized parcels and buildings, both town- and privately-owned.
 - Create a safe pedestrian environment in areas where local business is to be encouraged (this includes safe parking).
- The draft plan also includes a matrix recommending strategies to

implement each of the goals, the primary board or committee needed to act, the timeframe and potential resources to use, if necessary.

Albertson said he is optimistic about the next steps in the process.

“Once it’s adopted, we need to be vigilant so that all of the board and departments in town adhere to it,” Albertson said at the March 23 Planning Board meeting. “It’s good in that it provides u with a lot of substance as we apply for grants and want to do things as well.”

The plan will be available on the Planning Board section of the town’s website and at <https://www.scribd.com/document/500858862/BTown-MP-Economic-Development-Update-Draft-123020>.



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Orioles rebound in Week 2 win

TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – After losing their first game of the season at Ware, Belchertown High School rebounded to pick up a 22-0 win over Ludlow. The game was held at South Hadley High School’s turf field due to the field conditions at Belchertown High School. “Everyone worked very hard in today’s game,” said Belchertown

senior quarterback Owen Sedlacek. “We had never won a game on this field before, and it feels amazing.” While Sedlacek fueled the offense with a pair of rushing touchdowns, the Orioles defense forced a total of five turnovers. “I don’t remember the last time our defense forced five turnovers in a game,” said Belchertown head coach Ed Wysik. “We did make a couple of mistakes, but everyone contributed. This is a



Erik Magner makes a block for the Orioles.



Owen Sedlacek attempts to run through the pack.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

very good win for us against a good Ludlow squad.” The Orioles defense posted a shutout for the first time since the 2018 campaign when they shutout four opponents. The Lions (1-1), who lost a close game to Belchertown last season, didn’t play very well from start to finish in last Saturday’s

contest. “We just gave the game away today, which is something that we can’t afford to do,” said Ludlow head coach Ray Saloio. “We just made too many mistakes. It’s a very frustrating loss.” The Lions, who defeated Putnam, 35-6, in their season opener a week earlier, received

the opening kickoff, but they didn’t keep the ball for very long. Sedlacek recovered a fumble at the Lions 23-yard line on the first play of the game. The Lions defense managed to keep the Orioles from scoring a touchdown on that series.

See **REBOUND**, page 12 •

PATHFINDER FOOTBALL



Jordan Talbot escapes a tackle and tries to run the ball.



Colby Hill attempts a rush for the Pioneers.



Austin Lagimoniere returns the ball toward the left side.

Shorthanded Pioneers fall to Blue Devils

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Saturday afternoon, the Pioneers were only able to make it through a half in a 35-0 defeat against Northampton. The Blue Devils, which normally play three divisions ahead of Pathfinder, took advantage of a Pioneers team that had just 12 players. At halftime, the coaching staff made the decision not to continue playing in order to prevent injuries from happening.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Giovanni Perniciaro attempts to navigate through the crowd of Northampton defenders.

BASKETBALL

Granby falls in outdoor game

TIM PETERSON
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY — The Lady Rams began the newly created Fall II season by hosting the Holyoke Purple Knights on the outdoor basketball courts located behind the East Meadow School. Following a fairly close first half, the Purple Knights pulled away during the second half for a 51-23 victory, last Wednesday afternoon. “Playing outdoor games is the only option that we have this year. We can’t even practice in the gym,” said Granby head coach Erin Walch. “This was probably the first time that the girls’ basketball team had ever played a game outside, but the players were just glad to have some sense of normalcy.” Walch, who had coached the Granby girls j.v. team for the past three seasons, is filling in for longtime varsity head coach Tom Burke this spring. Burke decided to take the year off from coaching due to personal reasons. The weather wasn’t a major issue in Granby’s first ever outdoor game. The temperature

was in the mid 60’s and there wasn’t very much wind, which isn’t always the case during an outdoor sporting event at Granby

See **OUTDOOR**, page 15 •



PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Sienna Hill passes into the paint.

Soccer alignments proposed for new statewide tourney format

GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Holyoke and Central will stand together as the only two schools from Western Massachusetts that will compete in Division 1 soccer under the new alignments that have been proposed.

This fall, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association will change to a statewide tournament. In an attempt to equalize the competition, Massachusetts will move from four to five divisions in most major sports, such as soccer, basketball, and baseball and softball.

According to the alignments that have been proposed, Holyoke and Central are the only schools in the region that have enough enrollment to be part of Division 1.

Many current Division 1 schools in the region will now move down to Division 2.

Among the Division 2 teams in soccer will be Agawam, Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, Minnechaug

Regional, Amherst, and Ludlow. All of these teams have been playing in Division 1 for many years, and have competed in Division 1 tournaments at the regional and state level. Ludlow was a Division 1 state champion a couple of years ago.

Belchertown will be among the teams that will be featured in Division 3. This is not a change for those teams. They have been in Division 3 in recent years, though girls soccer has been playing Division 1 to improve its competition level. Belchertown won the boys Division 3 state championship in 2019.

South Hadley, which won a girls soccer Division 3 state title in 2019, will move to Division 4. Also included in Division 4 will be Mahar Regional.

Moving to the newly created Division 5 will be Palmer, Pathfinder, Monson, Granby, Ware, Quaboag, and North Brookfield.

In Central Mass., Tantasqua will be a part of Division 2, while Quabbin Regional will join Division 3.

The divisions the teams will

be assigned will determine what state tournament that team will have an opportunity to be a part of. With the number of divisions increasing, there will be more opportunities for teams to qualify, though there could be a lot of excessive travel in the early rounds of the tournament depending on what part of the state a team comes from.

Teams will have an opportunity to appeal their divisional placement, whether it before enrollment or competition reasons.

What has yet to be determined is what a Western Massachusetts tournament may look like. While the MIAA will not sponsor a tournament going forward, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference wants to sponsor a tournament. It is unknown how the competition will be aligned, but it could be difficult to place the teams according to division, with situations like having just Holyoke and Central in Division 1. The PVIAC had to put planning for sectional tournaments on hold due to the pandemic.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Icebreaker 125 is just a few weeks away and the entry list is piling up.

Entry list growing as Icebreaker event nears

WATERBURY, Vt. — Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park is just over three weeks away from opening the 2021 Northeast Auto Racing season with the annual Icebreaker. The headlining \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 on Sunday, April 11 continues to draw buzz and big names as the entry list grows leading up to the event.

Nearly 30 Tour-type Modified teams have registered for the debut of the Outlaw Open Modified Series. Even more are expected by the time the first green flag falls for qualifying. The list includes former track and series champions, many multi-time winners, and rising stars looking to start the season with a bang.

To no one's surprise, a huge contingent of racers from the "Modified Country" of Southern New England have entered. Former NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champions Doug Coby of Milford, CT; Bobby Santos III of Franklin, MA; and Ronnie Silk of Norwalk, CT are among the biggest names preparing for the season-opener.

Other touring series champions on the entry list are Chelmsford, MA's Jon McKennedy; Moosup, CT's Chris Pasteryak; and Woborn, MA's Anthony Nocella. Although NASCAR Cup Series regular Ryan Preece has not officially entered the Icebreaker, he has publicly expressed his interest in competing.

Plenty of weekly Modified warriors are also ready for the long-distance challenge. They include Berlin, CT's Keith Rocco, a seven-time Thompson Speedway champion, and Tolland, CT's Ronnie Williams, a two-time SK Modified champion at Stafford Motor Speedway. With 125 green-flag laps on the card, many factors will play into who ultimately takes home the big check.

"I think you're going to see a lot of different strategies in this type of race," Williams said. "I think a lot of guys will be pushing hard in the early laps of the race. It's the start of a new season, and a lot of guys haven't raced yet. I'm expecting a strong run out there. The No. 25 with Gary Casella always runs well at Thompson."

"You just have to play your cards right with all of the pit strategy and 125 laps that are all green flag laps," Rocco added. "Fuel is probably going to play a role in it for this one, too. There are a lot of aspects that are going to be part of trying to win the race. We always do really well in the open shows, from the SK Modifieds to the Tour Modifieds. Hopefully, we'll come out of the box strong to start the season."

However, the hunger for victory isn't just limited to Connecticut and Massachusetts. Racers from six different Northeast states already entered the Icebreaker 125, giving the event a regional flavor that speaks to its appeal among the Modified ranks.

New Hampshire racers Andy Shaw (Center Conway) and Trevor Bleau (Troy) live in an area typi-

cally dominated by Late Model-type cars. However, they're ready to make Modifieds the Granite State headliner for at least one day. Riverhead, NY's Eric Goodale is one of several drivers who are expected to do double-duty with the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour event at Virginia's Martinsville Speedway. Goodale's fellow Long Islander Artie Peterson III is also representing the Empire State.

Anthony Sesely is making the trip to Thompson from Port Monmouth, NJ. Earl Paules has an even long drive from Palmerton, PA. Patrick Emerling has the current "long haul" award, though, with a 432-mile journey each way from Orchard Park, NY to drive Ted Anderson's #1CT.

The Icebreaker 125 is the first event in the new Outlaw Open Modified Series. A quartet of \$5,000-to-win Wednesday events are scheduled for June 16, July 7, August 11, and September 15. The season concludes with the return of the Thompson 300, a \$20,000-to-win event on October 9 and 10 as part of the annual World Series of Speedway Racing.

Drivers can still register for the Icebreaker 125. Outlaw Open Modified Series entry forms and rules are available at www.act-tour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds. General event information can be found at www.act-tour.com/thompson-speedway.

Thompson Speedway opens its 82nd season with the annual Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. A total of 10 divisions will compete across two days of racing. Sunday's card features the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 for the Outlaw Open Modified Series. There's also a 40-lap ACT-type Late Model shootout plus the Limited Sportsman and SK Light Modifieds.

Saturday's six-division card is highlighted by the season-opening Thompson 75 for the PASS North Super Late Models. They're joined by the Sunoco Modifieds, NEMA LITES Midgets, EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge, Mini Stocks, and an 8-Cylinder Street Stock Open. An optional Test N' Tune practice day is slated for Friday, April 9 with all Icebreaker divisions welcome.

Adult general admission is \$30 for Saturday and \$35 for Sunday. Kids ages 12 and under are \$10 each day. Advance tickets are available at <https://happsnow.com/event/Thompson-Speedway-Motorsports-Park-YHPQ>. Grandstand attendance is limited to 50% of capacity per Connecticut COVID-19 guidelines. Pit passes will be sold at the track.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries and camping reservations, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompson-speedway.com, or visit www.thompsonspeedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

Valley Wheel Baseball seeks new players

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is looking for new players for the 2021 season, which is set to begin at the end of April. Players who are 28-years-old prior to June 1 are eligible to play in the league this season, however, only those 30 by June 1 are eligible to pitch. The league includes six teams and there is a 15-game season that begins on Sunday, April 25.

Games are 12 Sundays, a special Mother's Day weekend Saturday game, and two weekday night games under the lights. The season ends the final week of July with the playoffs for the top four teams during the first two weeks of August. Tryouts are set for the first three weekends in April. Tryouts will be Saturday, April 3, Sunday, April 11, and Sunday, April 18, all weather-permitting.

A draft for new players will be held after the final tryout. All players bat and every player spends at least four innings in the field. The league will be playing with some minor modifications due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, please contact League Commissioner Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net.

REBOUND • from page 11

On the ensuing drive, Ludlow senior quarterback Chris Fogg completed a 29-yard pass to senior Ethan Lapa, who made an over the head catch along the sideline. A couple of plays later, Fogg tossed a 12-yard screen pass to junior Michael Gilrein for another first down.

On the next play, Belchertown senior Hunter Englert recovered a fumble at the Orioles 22.

Once again, the Orioles failed to take advantage of the turnover, as they were forced to punt.

In the middle of the second quarter, Belchertown senior Sam Winston intercepted a pass.

It remained a scoreless game until the final play of the first half.

That's when Sedlacek, who'll be playing lacrosse at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York next year, capped of a seven-play drive with a 10-yard touchdown run.

"The touchdown at the end of the first half was a game-changer for us," Wysik said. "We were going to throw the ball on that play, but I told Owen if it wasn't open just run with it. That's exactly what he did. He's a powerful runner."

Sedlacek gave a lot of credit to his offensive line, who received the hammer following the game.

"I just want to thank my linemen," he said. "All of them played very well today and they earned the hammer."

The members of the Orioles O-line are junior Erik Wagner, senior Shea Cunningham, senior Chris Greene, senior Jake Delaney, and Englert.

The Orioles went into the



PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

The Orioles start a play on offense.

ten-minute halftime break with an 8-0 lead, as Winston scored a rushing touchdown on the two-point conversion play.

With a little more than four minutes remaining in the third quarter, Lapa caught a deflected pass for a first down. On the next play, Fogg completed a 26-yard pass to senior Cam LaPatin moving the ball into Belchertown territory.

Then Wagner recovered the Orioles third fumble of the game halting the Lions drive.

On the second play of the series, senior Jaden Wise scored his first career touchdown in a varsity game on a 56-yard run down the left sideline.

Just like he did at the end of

the first half, Winston scored a rushing touchdown on the conversion play.

At the start of the fourth quarter, Ludlow sophomore Mason Peltier recovered a fumble inside the Orioles ten-yard line, but the offense was forced to punt.

After breaking away from several would be tacklers, Sedlacek scored his second rushing touchdown on a 39-yard run with 31.9 seconds remaining in regulation. The Lions kept the Orioles out of the end zone on the two-point conversion play.

Then an interception by Belchertown senior Tyler Laramée secured the Orioles first shutout victory since a 6-0 win at Palmer on November 9, 2018.

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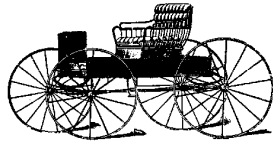
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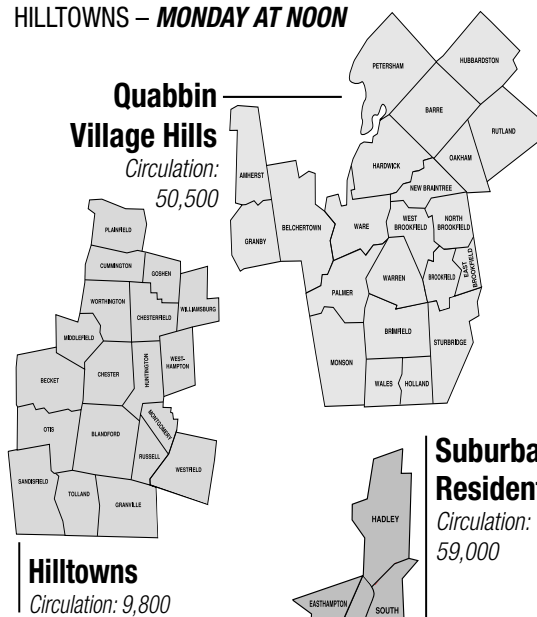
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OUTDOOR • from page 11

High School. It was also an overcast afternoon.

One advantage having the game played outside was more spectators were able to watch it in person. At most high schools in Western Massachusetts, only the parents of the home team players are allowed in the gymnasium to watch the game.

Holyoke High School also had to agree to play the game on the outdoor court instead of in a gymnasium.

“With everything that has gone on during the past year, we just want to play as many basketball games as we can this year, so we agreed to play this game,” said Holyoke head coach Andrea Enright. “It was a little bit different than being in a gym, but it was still a basketball game.”

While it was Granby’s first game of the season, the victory improved Holyoke’s record to a perfect 4-0.

“Everyone on my team is excited to be playing games and it’s been a lot of fun so far this year,” Enright said. “We did work on a couple of different things in today’s game.”

Both teams only have one senior listed on their varsity rosters.

Holyoke’s lone senior is Taryn Ryan, who finished the first meeting of the season



Briana Sosa goes between defenders to make a layup.



Ella Laliberte reaches out for the layup.

against Granby with 11 points.

Junior Yamaya Perez led the way offensively with a game-high 22 points. She made three of her four 3-pointers during the second half.

Sophomore Bianca Cordero also reached double digits in scoring for the visiting team with 14 points.

The only senior listed on the

Granby varsity roster is Justin Delaney, who scored five points in the season opening loss.

“I’m just happy to be able to play basketball as a senior,” said Delaney, who also plays soccer and lacrosse. “Playing a basketball game outside is a little bit different, but it’s better than nothing. I’ve been playing basketball with the players on this team since I was in the seventh grade.”

The Purple Knights opened the game



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Kristen Trembley rushes toward the basket.

with a 3-pointer and a pair of free throws by Perez. Cordero also banked home a trey from the top of the key giving her team an 8-2 advantage.

The Lady Rams answered with three baskets by Delaney, junior Kristen Trembley (4 points), and sophomore Ella Laliberte (team-high 7 points), which tied the score at 8-8 entering the second stanza.

Granby took the lead for the first time at 11-9 when Delaney buried a 3-pointer from the right corner.

The Lady Rams also led 13-11 before the Purple Knights closed out the first half with a 10-3 run. Cordero and Ryan combined to score eight of those points.

Trailing 21-16 at the break, Granby junior Sienna Hill delivered an inside pass to Trembley, who scored a lay-up at the start of the third quarter cutting the deficit to three points.

The Lady Rams couldn’t get any closer than that, as they were outscored, 30-5, by the Purple Knights the rest of the way. Half of Holyoke’s second half points were scored by Perez. Cordero scored six points after halftime, while Ryan added five points and sophomore Ashley Vazquez chipped in with four.

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PHOTOS BY MELINA BOURDEAU
The carousel has been on display at the UMass Studio Arts Building for six months.

CAROUSEL • from page 11

Built in 1924 on Coney Island, by the W. F. Mangels Company, it was purchased by her father from the New England Carousel Museum, in Bristol, Connecticut, in 2012. It was later inherited by her brother, who then gave it to her for this project,” according to UMass Amherst’s news and media relations.

It’s a kiddie-sized carousel, though it stills weights about 7,000 pounds. It is made of steel, wood, glass and aluminum. The carousel features horses stripped of their paint, mirrors, lights and shields with camera apertures which expand and contract.

The horses’ bodies are compact and made for easy dismantling and transport, unlike more permanent carousels which have horses attached to the floor or “jumpers” which go up, down and swing out.

Fanelli said she wanted to re-imagine the carousel “without any trappings.”

“I polished the horses to their bare aluminum, added mirrors and new lighting. I did all the electri-

cal work myself,” she said. “It’s supposed to be an unmasking of illusion that we buy into. In part of our youth, we board carousels and have this fantastical experience. Carousels don’t really go anywhere.”

It still spins and can be ridden. The carousel can be operated by hand or by an engine. When Fanelli demonstrates its motion, pushing the merry-go-round forward to gain momentum around the center pole causes the machine to emit a loud, grinding song.

She said the project is meant to comment on life in general, warning people to look beyond what is immediately in front of them.

“It’s a cultivation of awareness and truth,” Fanelli said. “It’s also been sited at the fork between two roads. I like to think that it suggests there is opportunity laying at the center of the fork, both symbolically and physically.”

She kept chunks of the paint, which show all the layers from many years of touch ups.

Fanelli’s thesis has been focused on elements of carnivals. This connection is a familial one – Fanelli’s family has owned a trav-



The horses on Kathryn Fanelli’s art installation, have been sanded down to their original layer of aluminum.

eling amusement park which used to bring 15 rides to the St. Mary’s parish carnival in Ware, among other local carnivals, for years.

While Fanelli doesn’t know where the project will go next, it will be stored locally.

“I’d like to have a possible solar element – to site it anywhere there is sun,” Fanelli said. “The question of sustainability is part of this, too. What do we do with these artifacts?”

She said the project took her a year and a half to complete and was originally going to be on display for one month. However, due to its popularity, the installation stayed up for six months.

“I was doing a showing every week. There would be about five or so people. We didn’t want a lot of people because of COVID,” she said. “I didn’t anticipate any of this.”

She has hopes of more work



On the carousel art installment, layers of paint from previous versions can be seen on the seats on the 100-year old carnival ride.

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